15th February 1958]

SRI V. CHAKKARAI CHETTY : Sir, is it a mandatory order from the Government of India that we should supply rice? Supposing we are unable to supply, what will be the consequence? Is it a mandate that we are obliged to obey or is it a mere request in the nature of a friendly action on the part of the Government for supplying rice to some other State that may be needy?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : There is no mandate, and there is no question of obedience or disobedience. There is free movement of rice, and unless we want to introduce control again, we cannot help rice moving from one State to another.

Grant of recognition to Service and Ex-Servicemen's Associations

* 19 *Q.*—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) the rules governing the grant of recognition to Service and ex-Servicemen's Associations;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the Madras State Pensioners' Association applied to Government in 1957 for recognition; and

(*c*) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) Copies of instructions[a] regarding grant of recognition to Service Associations are placed on the table of the House. Similar rules have not been framed for grant of recognition to ex-Servicemen's Association, viz., Association comprising persons who have retired from Government service.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The State Pensioners' Association was informed that it was not necessary for Government to recognize the Association as no useful purpose would be served by granting recognition.

SRI V. CHAKKARAI CHETTY : Sir, may I know whether the Service Association is in the nature of a trade union organization? If the trade union organization follows certain conditions, recognition automatically follows. Is the Pensioners' Association in the nature of a trade union organization? In that case, if we have laid down rules and they have followed them, recognition would automatically follow. Is this not so?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : We have not recognized the State Pensioners' Association. But, as far as Service Associations are concerned, they do not come under the Trade Union Act.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Sir, as the rules placed on the table of the House show that there is bar on only office-bearers being in active service of the Government, will the Government reconsider the question of recognition for the Madras State Pensioners' Association?

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[a] Printed as Appendix I on pages 230–232 infra.

[15th February 1958

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : There should be some purpose served by recognizing these associations. We have examined the proposal, and we found that no purpose would be served by giving recognition to the Pensioners' Association.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : May I ask, Sir, in case recognition is being accorded, what the advantages which will accrue to the Association are?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : One thing will be that we will be periodically getting representations that pensions should be increased (laughter), and it would not be possible for us to increase the pension. Therefore, no useful purpose will be served by giving recognition.

SRI V. CHAKKARAI CHETTY : Is not recognition of the Association the same as in the case of a trade union? There, recognition means freedom of correspondence, and the Government are obliged to answer any statement that the organization may make. There is free correspondence between the Government and the Association. The Government are obliged to give satisfactory replies to the organization. Is this not so, Sir? In the case of trade unions, I have myself been corresponding with the employers, and they recognize the union and at once reply to us.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Sir, I have been repeating that we have not recognized the Pensioners' Association.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Sir, could not the Finance Minister recognize this Association so that these retired officials will keep themselves in touch with the Finance Minister and the Finance Minister will keep in touch with them, without simply leaving them out once they retire? I say this in the Finance Minister's own interest. (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : It is not as it they are not keeping in touch with the Finance Minister even now. The only thing is that individual representations are made.

Agitation before Murali Cafe in Triplicane

* 20 Q.—SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state—

(a) the number of volunteers of the Dravida Kazhagam arrested up to 31st December 1957 in connection with the agitation before Murali Cafe in Triplicane for the removal of the word 'Brahmin' from the name-board of the hotel; and

(b) the expenditure incurred on the Police in that connection?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (a) 962.

(b) No expenditure was incurred in connection with the agitation, but the Police provided the necessary bundobust to maintain law and order.